

THE HUMBLE
PETITION
OF THE
Common Council
Of the City of
L O N D O N;

Presented to the High Court of
PARLIAMENT

On Saturday the 24 of September, 1659.

LONDON,
Printed for John Clark, at Mercers Chappel
in Cheap-side. 1659.

THE HUMBLE

PETITION

OF THE

Common Council

Of the City of

LONDON

Presented to the High Court of

PARLIAMENT

On Saturday the 4 of September 1679.

LONDON,

Printed for John Clark, at Messers Chappell
in Cheap-side. 1679.

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To the Supreme
AUTHORITY
Of the
N A T I O N,
The
PARLIAMENT
Of the Commonwealth of
E N G L A N D.

*The humble Petition of the Com-
mon Council of the City of
London*

Sheweth

THat this City hath taken notice of a Vote
of your Honours of the second of this In-
stant September, Importing your plea-
sures; that John Ireton the present Lord
Mayor of this City, do continue and execute the office

of Lord Major of London for the year ensuing, recommending it to the City of London, to see the same done accordingly; Touching which your Petitioners doe not at this time apply to your Honours out of any exception to the Honorable person therein mentioned, but in tendernesse to our *Ancient Charters, Customes and Priviledges*, (a breach upon which would exceedingly hazard, if not totally destroy the peace, good order and happinesse of the most antient and well-govern'd City (we had almost said) in the world: but surely (we may say) in this Nation, when as the Multitude of Inhabitants in and about it is Considered.

Our Government stands upon two strong supports, *The laudable Customes of it (time out of mind) and severall very ancient Charters which have been Confirmed by sundry Acts of Parliament*; and in them these are *Essentiall*; *That the Mayors of the City aforesaid, be Chosen by the Citizens of the same City; That the Mayor of the said City remain not in his office above one year together*; And that the Supreme power of the Nation may be fully satisfied in our Choice, we are to present him there for approbation, which we chearfully submit to, and assure our selves that amongst those severall very worthy persons whom God in his good providence hath given us in succession, there may be *Chosen such a fit person for the year ensuing, as will be serviceable to the peace and safety of the City and Nation, and acceptable to your Honours.*

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In the Consideration whereof, we make this our petition, perswading our selves, that no Alteration will be made by your Honours, in our so Antient good and peaceable Customes and Chartets: Especially, when we call to mind the long peace and Happinesse this great and populous City hath enjoyed under this Government: And that the disturbance of it though but in the minds of men, may prove dangerous thereunto; As also the great love and correspondence that this Election hath maintained in all times between the Mayor and Citizens.

But when we look into the records of Parliament, & our own Courts, What acknowledgements, promises, & Engagements this City hath received from your Honours, we might well abhorre our own disingenuity, if we should fear a breach of our Charters, or Customs, or any Mark of hardship or displeasure from your Honours: for we find the 13. of January 1643. Both Houses distinctly make great acknowledgments to the City, with assurance never to desert it, but to make it their greatest Care to watch all opportunities to advance the honour and happinesse of the City, which under God hath been the principall meanes of preserving the Parliament. The 6. of May 1644. A Committee from both Houses signifye their sense of the Cities readinesse to assist the Parliament upon all occasions, and that therefore the Parliament is likewise ready to expresse their gratitude to the City, in the most Essential manner & way they can find out. And therefore being about to make Propositions to the

A 3 *King*

King in behalfe of both Kingdomes; they offer it to the Common Council to think of some Propositions to be prepared in behalfe of the City, for the honour safety and good of it, and that the Parliaments will present them to his Majesty.

Accordingly the City prepared Propositions, of which one was for Confirmation of all the Charters granted to this City; and of all Liberties, Customes, and Priviledges; notwithstanding Non-user, Misuser or Abuser: That they shall not be drawn out of the Liberties to warre without their own consent.

The 18. of May 1644. The Commons acknowledge it an especiall Blessing of Almighty God, that their Endeavours have been so well understood, and accepted by this famous City; without whose Constant affections and assistance they could not have brought their great work to the hopefull Condition, wherein by the mercy of God it then stood.

That the City have demonstrated their adherence to the House of Commons by Action in times of greatest difficulty, and have therein spent their dearest blood, and vast summes of Treasure; omitting no possible supplies of purse or person.

That they (the Commons) will never forget the great encouragement they then received (by a Petition) from the City.

And in return for their great affections, the House of Commons do declare, They will in a most peculiar manner be mindfull of the merit of the City, which upon all occasions they shall acknowledge, and will endeavour for to requite.

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The fruits of all which , we do perswade our selves , Can never be wanting to this City whiles your Honours that made them , have power in your hands to make them good. And we hope the Common Enemy both to you and us, shall never haue Cause to rejoyce in this , that our City should want the benefits of your Engagements to us in the dayes of your and our Streights, Much lesse, loose any of our former Priviledges by your hands in the days of Peace.

And therefore in a deep sense of the Cityes Concernment therein , and the duty Incumbent on us, and all Freemen of this City by virtue of our Oaths, we do most humbly pray, that your Honours would lay no restraint upon the peoples free Election of our Mayor; And that our ancient Charters, Customes, Rights, and Priviledges in this and all other things may be Continued to us.

And we shall ever pray, &c.

The first of all words, we do perceive our
letters, Can not be wanting to this day
your Honors should have been
brink to make their good, and we hope
Common Equity both to you and us, that we
yet have Cause to rejoice in this, that our City
should have the benefit of your suggestions to
use the effect of our and our strength, which
less, looking of our former Englishes, have
hands in the days of Peace.

And therefore a day full of the City
Commonwealth, and the City
Council as we shall be able to
City as a whole of our City, we do not
humbly pray that your Honors, only
try to bring upon the people, for
Election of our City, and our
and British in this and all other
things may be continued.

And the first of all words